AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined ("___") being added and the language that contains strikethrough ("——") being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling digital messages, the method ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

determining whether ~~an~~ a sender of a received email message ~~meets a predefined condition:~~ is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account; and

~~executing an action in an instant messaging (IM) system in response to determining that the email message meets the predefined condition.~~ in response to determining that the sender of the received email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launching an IM session with the sender.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of determining whether the email message meets a predefined condition comprises the step of~~ determining whether a sender of a received email message is currently present at an IM account includes extracting contact information from the email message, the contact information being associated with ~~a~~ the sender of the received email message.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for handling digital messages, the method ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

providing a programming interface, the programming interface adapted to receive user

input, the user input being provided in a markup language; ~~and~~

storing inputs provided by a user at the programming interface, the inputs being provided in the markup language, the inputs comprising a condition, the inputs further comprising an ~~action.~~ action;

receiving a digital message from a message sender;

determining whether the digital message includes a request for a file; and

retrieving the requested file.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 6, wherein the step of executing the action comprises the steps of:~~ claim 4, further comprising:

~~determining whether the file is accessible;~~

~~retrieving the file in response to determining that the file is accessible; and~~

transmitting the file to the message sender in response to retrieving the file.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for handling digital messages, the method ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprises:

determining whether a digital message meets a predefined condition; and

executing a filtering algorithm on the digital message in response to determining that the digital message does not meet the predefined ~~condition.~~ condition,

wherein the predefined condition is selected from the group consisting of:

the digital message includes a specified Internet address of a sender;

the digital message includes a specified Internet address of a primary recipient;

the digital message includes a specified Internet address of a secondary recipient;

the digital message includes a specified Internet domain;

the digital message includes a specified word in a subject line of the digital message;

the digital message includes a specified word in a text body of the digital message;

the digital message includes a specified hypertext markup language (HTML) tag in the digital message;

the digital message includes a specified extensible markup language (XML) tag in the digital message;

the digital message has an empty subject line;

the digital message has no content;

the digital message exceeds a specified size; and

the digital message originated from a specified source Internet protocol (IP) address.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine whether ~~an~~ a sender of a received email message ~~meets a predefined condition;~~ is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device ~~to execute an action in an instant messaging (IM) system in response to determining that the email message~~

~~meets the predefined condition.~~ to, in response to determining that the sender of the received email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launch an IM session with the sender.

11.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 10, further comprising computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to ~~extracting~~ <u>extract</u> contact information from the email message, the contact information being associated with ~~a~~ <u>the</u> sender of the <u>received</u> email message.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable <u>storage</u> medium comprising:

computer-readable code representing a condition, the condition being in a markup language; ~~and~~

computer-readable code representing an action, the action being in a markup ~~language.~~ <u>language;</u>

<u>computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a digital message from a message sender;</u>

<u>computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine whether the digital message meets the condition; and</u>

<u>computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to retrieve the requested file.</u>

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~storage~~ medium of ~~claim 15,~~ claim 13, further comprising:

~~computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine whether the file is accessible;~~

~~computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to retrieve the file in response to determining that the file is accessible; and~~

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to transmit the file to the message sender in response to retrieving the file.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:

means for determining whether ~~an~~ a sender of a received email message ~~meets a predefined condition;~~ is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account; and

~~means for executing an action in an instant messaging (IM) system in response to determining that the email message meets the predefined condition.~~ means for, in response to determining that the sender of the received email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launching an IM session with the sender.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:

condition-determination logic adapted to determine whether ~~an~~ a sender of a received email message ~~meets a predefined condition;~~ is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account; and

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~~command execution logic adapted to execute an action in an instant messaging (IM)~~ ~~system in response to determining that the email message meets the predefined condition.~~ launch logic configured to, in response to determining that the sender of the email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launch an IM session with the sender.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising information-extraction logic adapted to extract contact information from the email message, the contact information being associated with a sender of the email message.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:

program-interface logic configured to provide a programming interface, the programming interface adapted to receive user input, the user input being provided in a markup language; and

input-storage logic configured to store inputs provided by a user at the programming interface, the inputs being provided in the markup language, the inputs comprising a condition, the inputs further comprising an ~~action.~~ action;

receiving logic configured to receive a digital message from a message sender;

determining logic configured to determine whether the digital message includes a request for a file; and

retrieving logic configured to retrieve the requested file.

23.   (Currently Amended) A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:

means for providing a programming interface, the programming interface adapted to receive user input, the user input being provided in a markup language; and

means for storing inputs provided by a user at the programming interface, the inputs being provided in the markup language, the inputs comprising a condition, the inputs further comprising an ~~action.~~ action;

> means for receiving a digital message from a message sender;
>
> means for determining whether the digital message includes a request for a file; and
>
> means for retrieving the requested file.

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Currently Amended) A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:

condition-determination logic adapted to determine whether a ~~digital message meets a predefined condition; and~~ sender of a received digital message is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account;

~~command execution logic adapted to execute a filtering algorithm on the digital message in response to determining that the digital message does not meet the predefined condition.~~ launch logic configured to, in response to determining that the sender of the received digital message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launch an IM session with the sender.